



Dear friends,

Just a week or so ago, on March 21, our friend and Bethel resident Richard Blanco was one of a stellar group of creative thinkers to be awarded the [National Humanities Medal in a ceremony at the White House](#).

President Biden praised Richard's poetry "for breathing life into the identity and idea of America."

He also quoted the end of the Richard's famous 2013 inaugural poem, *One Today*:

*one moon  
like a silent drum tapping on every rooftop  
and every window, of one country—all of us—  
facing the stars  
hope—a new constellation  
waiting for us to map it,  
waiting for us to name it—together.*

Congratulations, Richard!

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#### Upcoming Public Commission Meetings:

May 9, 1-4 p.m. Zoom  
June 13, 1-4 p.m. Portland,  
ME

The very next day, arts commentator, author and retired orchestral administrator Joe Horowitz, himself a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow, wrote about [the South Dakota Symphony in the ArtsJournal](#). He called it “our most genuinely innovative, most inspirationally forward-looking professional orchestra.”

The latest performance that inspired Horowitz was the South Dakota Symphony’s take on Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7, the Leningrad Symphony. As part of the event, the piece was contextualized sharing the story of the performance on August 9, 1942, that was presented via loudspeakers to the Nazi army that had surrounded the city of Leningrad for more than a year. They included a quote from the diary of a Nazi soldier who wrote afterward: “It had a slow but powerful effect on us. The realization began to dawn that we would never take Leningrad. We began to see that there was something stronger than starvation, fear and weather – the will to remain human.”

The context of the residents of a city in the Soviet Union standing firm against the Nazis in 1942, also provides a compelling juxtaposition to what’s happening today in Ukraine and the seize from the Russian military.

Many students from South Dakota State University attended the concert in Sioux Falls and their professor noted that “finding a way to use the performing arts to bring these important stories to life is a wonderful way to touch students who are growing up with social media and other non-traditional means of communication,” he said, adding, “It’s vital to open their eyes to experiences just like these contextualized Shostakovich concerts. To leave them thinking, ‘my life would be incomplete without the arts being a part of it.’”

The arts provide so many opportunities to share ideas and experiences; to make connections between the past, present and

[Contact](#) our agency if interested in attending our public meetings. We would love for you to join us.

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future.

We're hearing all kinds of stories from Maine art and culture makers about how different things are today than they were just a few years ago – before Covid. Of course, our audiences have changed. Frankly, we're all changed. But we didn't all have the same experience.

The other day I heard a compelling notion about emerging from the pandemic. Someone mused the common idiom that 'we're all in the same boat.' 'No,' came the retort, 'we're all in the same storm. But we're in different boats.' The idea struck me.

As we're discussing what's happening out there, we need to remember that our audience isn't a single, like-minded crowd. Our audience is made up of individuals of all kinds who just happen to come together at the same time to experience an event. But many of their priorities – like our own – have gone through a change in the past few years.

What the words of Richard Blanco and the story of the South Dakota Symphony tell us is that there is a new and unmapped constellation out there waiting for us to name – and try to understand – it.

But at the same time, we can find solace in the hope that if we strive to provide compelling context and make sure our work is relevant to our community, we have a better shot at affecting lives in the way that our fundamental experiences inspired us to believe that our lives would be incomplete without the arts.

**-David Greenham**

Executive Director

Maine Arts Commission



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[Join Our Mailing List](#)

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## WriteME

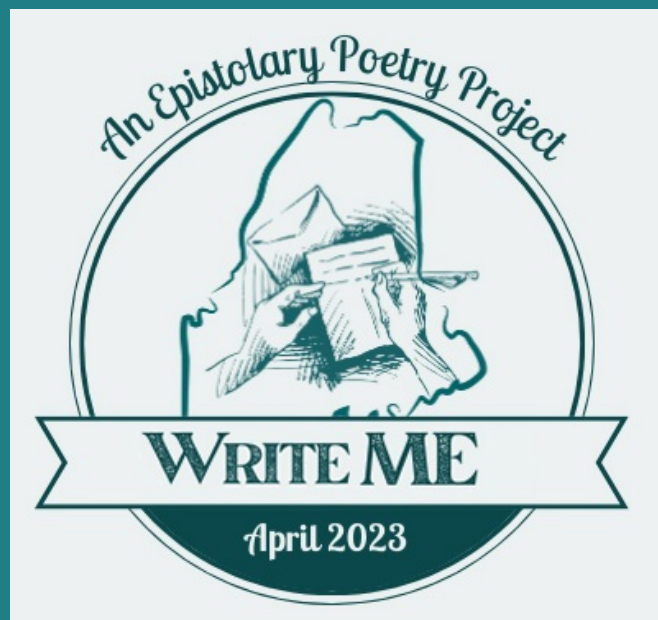
### Poetic Letter Writing Workshops, April 22, 29

When was the last time you wrote someone a letter? Or received one? When was the last time you truly communicated with someone you didn't already know?

Letters are a vital ritual of connection, a communication that extends beyond the words or

message themselves to encompass an entire range of sensory experiences: the anticipation we feel as we open the mailbox and find an envelope, the sound of tearing paper as we slide a finger under the seal, the work of deciphering the familiar or unfamiliar handwriting, the color of the ink, the texture of the paper held in our hands as we read. The one who has written to us is absent and yet we can hold evidence of them in our hands. They are, in some way, here in the room with us by virtue of their letter.

An epistolary poem is a poem that is also a letter. The epistolary poem remains a powerful and captivating poetic form—and one that seems particularly crucial to our present moment, in which the intimacy, community-building, and grounding, physical aspects of letter writing can provide us with much-needed antidotes for social polarization and isolation.





# Free Workshops - Live & Virtual



**Valerie Lawson** at  
the Eastport Arts  
Center  
April 22,  
1- 2:30 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)



**Richard Blanco**  
Virtual Workshop  
on Zoom  
April 22,  
1- 2:30 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)



**Maya Williams**  
Portland Public  
Library  
April 29,  
11- 12:30 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)



**Dawn Potter**  
Virtual Workshop  
on Zoom  
April 29,  
1- 2:30 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)



**Meg Willing** Twice  
Told Tales  
Farmington  
April 29,  
3- 2:30 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

With support from the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance and the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Poet Laureate Julia Bouwsma is creating a Maine-wide epistolary poetry project that introduces the form through a series of free public workshops across the state and then pairs up participating individuals as “poetry pen pals” to communicate with one another through a series of epistolary poems.

## **Announcing Organization Operation Grant Winners:**

We extend a big round of applause to the arts organizations who just received an OPERATIONS GRANT! Arts Commission staff evaluated and reworked this grant with the goal to be more inclusive and accessible to organizations who are new to the field and have smaller operating budgets.

It was a very competitive field, and 39 organizations from all parts of the state received funding.

See the full list of recipients  
[HERE](#)



# GRANT OPPORTUNITY



- **FOR AROOSTOOK ARTISTS**
  - **\$1,000 MICRO-GRANTS**
  - **APPLY BY MAY 30**
- [wintergreenarts.org](http://wintergreenarts.org)**

## Announcing the launch of Aroostook Creative Network

We are ecstatic to launch the Aroostook Creative Network, northern Maine's first collaborative for artists, performers and crafters.

This program offers micro-grants up to \$1,000 specifically for artists living in The County. Wintergreen Arts Center in Presque Isle is administering the grants.

Artists may apply for micro-grants to help create new or existing work, enhance their artistic skills or abilities, participate in opportunities that will benefit their career, and improve their ability to share their art with the public.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY by May 30, 2023.](#)

[READ FULL ARTICLE>](#)

Photo credit: Wood carved sign by Aroostook based traditional artist, Tom Cote.



# POETRY OUT LOUD



Poets, performers, educators, friends and family came to the Olin Arts Center on March 13 to cheer on the 10 state finalists who reached the last round of the Maine Poetry Out Loud Championships.

Hosts Maya Williams and Allan Monga, Jr. kicked off the night with their own recitations. Maine Poet Laureate Julia Bouwsma delivered a comedic and moving keynote speech. And any nervousness that remained among the participants was squashed by the dazzling Janoah the Jester whose circus grandeur and juggling flair carried us through the night.

The recitations were truly spectacular, but the judges could only choose one reciter to move on to the national competition. We are pleased to announce that Abigail Case of Hermon High School will be competing in Washington D.C. in May. Jaime Bueya-Mbiyavanga of Portland High School was named the runner up this year. Thanks to everyone who supports Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest, including Maine students, schools, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Poetry Foundation. Maine will be cheering on Abigail as she brings her power of spoken word to our nation's capital to compete for a total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends, as well as a \$20,000 scholarship.



[SEE THE FULL RECAP OF THE MAINE POL STATE FINALS + PHOTOS](#)

## Environmentally Active Artists Wanted

The Maine Arts Commission has been asked to contribute an article on the arts and climate change for an upcoming special issue of the University of Maine's Maine Policy Review that has the theme of "Our Shared Ocean." They



write: “In this issue, we hope to find common ground, learn from history, and explore the myriad ways the ocean affects our economy and communities, leading both to challenges that must be addressed and to opportunities that are emerging.”

We’re looking to connect and talk to Maine artists who are incorporating the issues of climate change and Maine’s future into their art. They are especially interested in art that relates to the Atlantic Ocean and

the bays along the coast. If you’re a climate change focused artist, please contact executive director David Greenham [david.greenham@maine.gov](mailto:david.greenham@maine.gov) and we’ll look forward to speaking with you.



## STATE OF MAINE FIRST ANNUAL EMPLOYEE ART EXHIBITION

Open to all state workers and their families.

Showcase creative work and compete for CASH prizes.

We are hosting the first State of Maine Employee Art Exhibition at the State Capitol Complex in Augusta.

The show is designed to give artists at all skill levels a unique opportunity to exhibit their creative work and compete for CASH PRIZES. Maine employees and their families are invited to submit artwork to be considered for this exciting new exhibit. Don't miss this chance to be recognized for your creativity!

Sponsored by the National Arts Program in support and cooperation with the Maine Arts Commission, this exhibit is judged by professionals and is free to all. Selected works will be on display in the Burton M.

Cross Office Building (second floor), and at the Maine Arts Commission building from July 5 – October 31.

**Deadline to apply: May 15, 2023**



Maine State Employee 1st Annual National Arts Program Exhibit

Exhibit Dates: July 5 - October 31, 2023

Registration Deadline: Monday, May 15, 2023

[nationalartsprogram.org/maine](http://nationalartsprogram.org/maine)





## Maine Excellence in Arts Education Exhibition

### Maine State Capitol Complex

When Lillian Runs After, a senior at Oxford Hills Technical School, created her poster “Peace not War” in graphic design class, she wasn’t thinking about awards. Lillian was creating from the heart. This poster, along with 34 other student artworks from around the state, is now on display at the Capitol Complex in the Maine Excellence in Arts Education annual exhibit.

This year, a jury selected these 35 pieces from hundreds that were submitted from Maine for the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a national program

celebrating its 100th year. The exhibition, open to the public 9 AM – 5 PM Monday-Friday, is installed in the Cross Office Building and the Maine Arts Commission office until May 31. (Header image- "Self Love" by Kayley Feeney of Kents Hill School. "Peace Not War" by Lillian Runs After of Oxford Hills Tech School.)



## Maine Association of Nonprofits

Professional Development for Staff through Your Discounted MANP Membership

Regularly investing in the growth and learning of your employees is essential to both talent retention and mission impact.

Check out live in-person and virtual events on a range of topics on [MANP's upcoming events calendar](#) (more events are added each month)!

Too busy to tune in live? MANP members can also tap into [on-demand learning opportunities](#) through the free webinar library and self paced courses and certificates.

**Learn more about the discounted membership options for arts aligned nonprofits, and how the Maine Association of Nonprofit's resources, services, and programs can support your work.**



## CreativeGround Profile Spotlight



### **HAWK HENRIES**

"I feel that music has the great potential for bridging gaps between cultures and peoples.

Whether my presentation takes place in an educational setting, private gathering, or a large public venue, I use music to try to inspire laughter, understanding, and an awareness of the sacredness of every person.

I play original music on flutes that I create along with instruments from other cultures."

[Visit Hawk's CreativeGround Profile](#)

Do you have a CreativeGround profile? Use this robust directory to promote your work



inside and beyond Vermont; your listing can include images, sound or video clips, links to other pages, and references. [Create your free listing today](#), and check these [tips and tricks for creating a strong profile](#).

# MAY 19 + 20 BELFAST, MAINE

## MAINE + INDIE + MUSIC

### ALL ROADS MUSIC FESTIVAL ARTIST LINE UP

Launchpad is proud to present the 7th Annual All Roads Music Festival, set for May 19 + 20, 2023 in beautiful Belfast, Maine. All Roads Music Festival is a two-day festival and celebration of indie music that brings some of the finest emerging musicians under one banner in a city known for its passionate support of the arts and locally grown creative talent. The festival features performances in a variety of genres including indie rock, folk, pop, bluegrass, and indie folk musicians, as well as performers from related contemporary genres such as alternative country, punk and hip-hop.

Over 40 Performing Artists are featured each year, representing 150+ Maine musicians. The festival also includes discussion panels, curated showcases, and the annual Maine Songwriter's Circle.



**ALL ROADS MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
MAY 19 + 20  
BELFAST, ME  
MAINE + INDIE + MUSIC

**FRIDAY**  
SPOSE • PETER GALLWAY  
+ BRIT MARTIN • TRICKY BRITCHES • MALIK ELIJAH  
+ DARLIN' COREY • GRAPHIC MELEE • ALICE LIMOGES  
+ OPENING PARTY @ THREE TIDES  
FEATURING BAIT BAG • QUANTUM

**SATURDAY**  
WEAKENED FRIENDS • THE BALLROOM THIEVES • DEAD GOWNS  
DAVE GUTTER • LOVE BY NUMB3RS • KING KYOTE  
+ JUST MILK • VIQUEEN • RANDOM IDEAS • SEA LEVEL • JOEL THETFORD  
+ FORKED TONGUE • ANGEL LAKE • XANDER NELSON • LOUISA STANCIOFF • MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST  
+ WHITNEY WALKER • LEAN MEATS • JUG • ANGELIKAH FAHRAY • SAVOIR FAIRE  
+ JAKE SWAMP & THE PINE • RIGOMETRICS • THE CROWDED TABLE • ROOTS, RHYTHM & DUB  
+ MAINE SONGWRITER'S CIRCLE FEATURING - JEFF BEAM, ALICE LIMOGES, DUSTIN SAUCIER  
+ GENEVIEVE BEAUDOIN (OF DEAD DOWNS)  
+ THE MAINE VINTAGE COLLECTIVE OUTDOOR MARKET • DISCUSSION PANELS  
+ CLOSING PARTY @ THREE TIDES WITH JEFF BEAM • THE BUTTON MEN

**OXBOW** **LAUNCH PAD** **STATE THEATRE** **WEIR** **RU** **Seascope** **TICKETS AVAILABLE AT**  
**ALLROADSMUSICFEST.ORG**

## Maine Arts News & Opportunities

- [Maine Arts Commission Organization Project Grant - Apply by April 13](#)
- [NEA Challenge America Grants - Grants of \\$10,000 for projects that extend the](#)



- [reach of the arts, apply by April 27](#)
- [NEA Grants for Art Projects - for organizations, providing comprehensive and expansive funding opportunities for communities, apply by July 6](#)
- [Indigo Arts Alliance Announces "Art in the Wake: Reckoning and Re-memembering" a symposium on slavery and forced migration](#)
- [NEFA Names Harold Steward as Next Executive Director](#)
- [Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts establishes Scholarship for Change Fund](#)
- [Call for Art in Unique Boutique Hotel, Augusta](#)
- [USDA Rural Innovation Stronger Economy \(RISE\) Grant Program for innovation centers and job accelerator programs that improve the ability of distressed rural communities - Apply by April 20](#)
- [USDA Strategic Economic and Community Development to support projects that will help rural people and economies prepare for the future, Rolling deadline](#)
- [ARTICLE - Creating an idyllic space for artists, educators and entrepreneurs in rural America](#)
- [Midcoast Artist Ann Tracy Exhibits in Group Show in NYC](#)
- [Camp Fernwood is seeking instructors to teach woodworking, ceramics and photography during summer 2023](#)
- [Waterman's Community Center seeking Program Director](#)
- [Call to Artists requesting proposals for professional artist residencies for Brunswick's public elementary schools](#)
- [Union of Maine Visual Artists Expanding and Seeks Volunteers](#)
- [Waterville Creates seeking Interim Communications Coordinator](#)
- [CMCA's Mia Bogyo awarded with 2023 Excellence in Art Advocacy by MAEA](#)
- [Mellon Foundation: "Why Does Affirmative Action Still Matter?" Video](#)

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## Events & Additional Opportunities

- [Death Wings Project, Theater Project, Brunswick, March 30 - April 8](#)
- [Jazz music and tap dance of Ayan Imai-Hall Quartet at the Dance Hall in Kittery, 3/31](#)
- [Artist Talk with Michael Kolster, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland, March 31](#)
- [Waterville Opera House presents "The Play That Goes Wrong" 3/31-4/8](#)
- [Maine Jewish Film Festival launches statewide showings of FOUR WINTERS in April, Portland](#)
- [United States Air Force Band, Cony Middle/High School, Augusta 4/1](#)
- [Poetry Reading- from Chorale: An Anthology of Local Authors, Yarmouth, 4/6](#)
- [The Blue Café: IVA, Camden Opera House, 4/7](#)
- [Free Community Photoshoot Meetup, Portland 4/8](#)
- [Osher School of Music 46th Annual Honors Recital, Gorham, 4/8](#)
- [Artists' Reception for Art at Bartlett 2023, Bartlett Woods Retirement Community, Rockland, 4/8](#)
- [Camden Public Library presents "The Art of Sound: Recordings from the Coast of Maine" featuring Dianne Ballon, Camden, 4/11](#)
- [Jazz by the van Voorst Quartet and wine for Spring Celebration, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland, 4/14](#)
- [Opening Reception: Welcome to Egg Rock, Waterfall Arts, Belfast, 4/14](#)
- [The Grand presents "The Sound of Music" - Ellsworth, Performance Dates: April 7-9 & 14-16](#)

- [Andrius Žlabys Piano Master Class, Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham 4/15](#)
  - [The Four Seasons of the Master Myth and Solar Flares & Salazar premiering 4/15](#)
  - [Community Little Theatre Presents the Musical "Little Women, Auburn, 4/20 - 4/30](#)
  - [Low Lily w/Elsie & Ethan, Camden Opera House, 4/21](#)
  - [Opening Reception Steve and Judy Halpert Collection, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland. 4/21](#)
  - [Sarah Kirkland Snider's "Mass for the Endangered" Portland, 4/29](#)
  - [Paintings in Oil an Annual Exhibition of Visual Art- Richard Boyd Gallery 5/1-5/30](#)
  - [Annual Danforth Juried Exhibition Now Open for Submissions](#)
  - [New England Arts Opportunities & National Opportunities](#)
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